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Reflection #2

How important is the literature review (and differentiating between various types of journals) and assessing prior research, theorists, and current instructional strategies?

    When starting an action research paper, many people may begin to wonder how creditable are the sources in which they are researching and using in their work. With the internet being the “go to” for research, many people must make sure that what they are researching is valid. Through literature review, researchers are given a review of the critical points of current knowledge including substantive findings as well as theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic. Literature reviews are secondary sources, and do not report any new or original experimental work. With literature sometimes be complex and filled with information and facts, it is important that the literature being presented to the public be scholarly writing and as well as come from journal articles, books, published essays, government reports, to name a few. The main factor about a literature review is that "the literature" is the “body of scholarly, professional information” that is used by professionals and scholars working on that topic area as well as examined and reviewed by either blind referee or peer reviewed.  Both of these methods allow the research to know that what they are using as a source is reliable and creditable for their topic of research.

     With peer review there is a process of self-regulation by a profession or a process of evaluation involving qualified individuals within the relevant field. Peer review methods are employed to maintain standards, improve performance and provide credibility. With blind referee the literature is thoroughly examined with the author remaining anonymous to the review. This method allows for literature to be reviewed about on the content and factual information in the work instead of prior knowledge about the author or personal contact. even more critically examined, with the reviewers not knowing who the author is, which insures that the information is judged on content and not personal and biased relationships.

    With literature reviews being helpful, it is the prior research that allows the current researcher to build upon an idea or learn lesson from a prior research method or strategy. With libraries and the internet being filled with information, every researcher should be able to pave a road for themselves with what something else someone has researched. Seeing what others have researched can also help a research to modify or update a past strategy that can now be used in a current part of a society such as the classroom. Modifying and updating to fit with today’s society’s needs as well as today’s children is an important part of action research. With past, present, and future somewhat connecting through research, it is important for a researcher to be aware of what theorists have said on the topic as they are the ones who have started the original research and began to pave that road. It is up to current researchers to continue to pave that road and work from past knowledge and make a connection with the present in order to make a better future.